

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor of Connecticut
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Cc: Joint Energy and Technology Committee Chairs Senator Paul Doyle and
Representative Lonnie Reed

Dear Governor Dannel Malloy,

As we are writing to ask you to support expanding access to renewable energy, like solar and wind power, to all Connecticut families and businesses through creation of a shared renewable energy program. We urge your support of Raised Bill SB 928, a strong and effective bill to do just that. Shared renewable energy will empower renters and millions of others to choose solar and wind for the first time – and that will save consumers money, expand access to state renewable energy programs and unleash significant private investment into the state's growing clean energy economy.

Solar and other renewable energy options are already delivering tremendous benefits across Connecticut, but the traditional panels-on-your-roof model simply does not work for the majority of energy consumers. For instance, families and businesses in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport who rent their home or apartment, rural homeowners with trees shading their roofs, and plenty of others who would like to go solar are left in the dark. In order to deliver the economic development that clean energy has offered parts of Connecticut to every corner of the state, we need to create a shared renewable energy program.

A shared renewable energy program would allow a broader group of energy consumers to meet their energy needs with clean, renewable energy. Whether or not they own an appropriate rooftop or property themselves, Connecticut families and businesses would be able to subscribe to a local shared renewable energy project and get credit on their utility bills for their portion of the clean power produced. In doing so, a well-designed shared renewables program can help low- and moderate-income families, individuals and businesses access the benefits of clean energy and the powerful Connecticut State programs that support clean energy. Renewable energy can help consumers to stabilize

and reduce their energy bills, which is all the more important for low- and moderate-income communities where utility bills make up a much larger portion of their expenses. A shared renewable energy program is critical to delivering the promise of clean energy to everyone in Connecticut.

By expanding the market for renewable energy to the majority of energy consumers who cannot put solar or other renewable energy generation on-site, Connecticut can also multiply economic and environmental benefits. The solar industry alone has added around 500 jobs in the past year and each new installation leads to investment in the local economy and long term energy savings to local consumers. At the same time as we face the challenge of global climate change, shared renewable energy can help Connecticut meet its goals for reducing emissions from the energy sector.

Clean energy is transforming Connecticut's economy for the better, and shared renewable energy can accelerate and deepen this transformation. Connecticut has the opportunity to join the states across the country, like Massachusetts, Colorado and California, which are reaping the benefits of shared renewable energy. Please support swift passage of Raised Bill SB 928 to create a shared renewable energy program for Connecticut.

Signed,

Clean Energy Collective
Clean Water Action
Community Energy
Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)
ConnPIRG
Environment Connecticut
Greenskies Renewable Energy
NRG Home Solar Inc.
Operation Fuel, Inc.
Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association
Sierra Club – Connecticut Chapter
Vote Solar
Town of North Branford Office of Social Services
Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM)